



On the last day of 1986, The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter closed on the purchase, for \$400,000, of 55 acres on Selden Creek in Lyme, one of the most undisturbed and biologically significant fresh water tidal marshes in the Connecticut River estuary (see article, below). The seller, Mr. Ferdinand Coudert, also donated an easement on the adjoining 46 acres.

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## CONNECTICUT CHAPTER SAVES TWO VITAL NATURAL AREAS

### \$900,000 Fundraising Goal Set

With the successful completion of the Connecticut Critical Areas Campaign and the Connecticut Coastal Wildlife Refuge barely behind us, the Connecticut Chapter, during the closing days of 1986, took bold and decisive action to save two important natural areas. Cedar Island, an undeveloped ten-lot subdivision on a barrier beach in Clinton, was purchased by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) from the owner/developer, and the 101-acre Selden Creek Preserve was established in Lyme. In both instances, terms negotiated with the owners required transfer of title before December 31, 1986.

Tax law changes, created by the Tax Reform Act of 1986, would have made our offers much less attractive after January 1. Inaction by the Chapter's Board and staff would have jeopardized this opportunity to permanently protect these vital areas.

Alex Gardner, Chairman of the Chapter's Board of Trustees commented following the transactions, "While we are still uncertain where all the funds are coming from to meet our goals for these projects, it was imperative that we act swiftly to preserve forever Selden Creek and

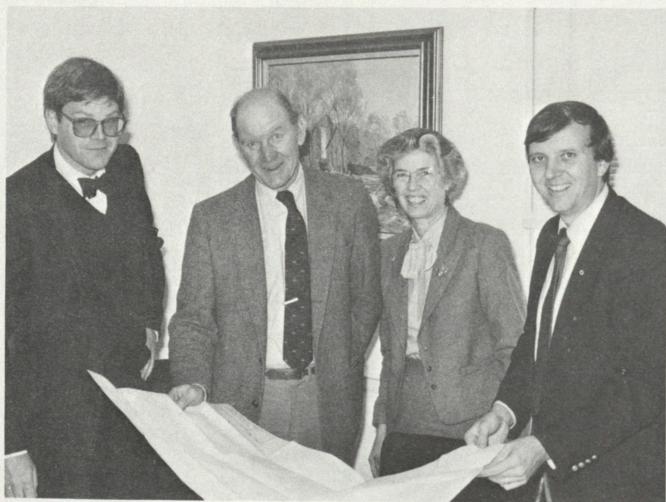
#### THE NATURE CONSERVANCY AT WORK

	Nationally	In Connecticut
Total Projects	5,824	347
Total Acres Saved	2,534,252	15,324
Tracts Registered	1,309	67
Tradeland Tracts Received	322	23
Members	308,828	9,319
Corporate Associates	430	20



National Office: 1800 North Kent St., Arlington, Virginia 22209





Andrew Zepp

At the closing on December 31, 1986, of the purchase of Selden Creek, the Chapter's newest preserve in Lyme, Fritz Gahagan, an attorney for Ferdinand Coudert, Rufus Barringer of the Lyme Land Trust, and Carolyn Evans and Les Corey, both of the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (from left), view map of 101 acres of riverside land acquired by the Conservancy from Coudert.

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Cedar Island, two gems of natural diversity." Gardner added, "I am confident that TNC members, interested state and regional agencies, and the local communities involved will respond favorably and generously in helping us meet the \$900,000 fundraising goal established by the Chapter for these acquisitions."

### Selden Creek Preserve

The permanent protection of this 101-acre natural area along the Connecticut River in Lyme is a significant conservation achievement. Preservation of this biologically rich wild land was accomplished through the purchase of 55 acres on Selden Creek by the Connecticut Chapter for \$400,000. The property was sold to the Conservancy by Mr. Ferdinand Coudert. An adjoining 46-acre parcel was preserved with a conservation easement donated to the Chapter by Mr. Coudert.

Nearly one-mile of frontage on Selden Creek is included in this new Conservancy preserve which is in close proximity to Selden Neck State Park (see map). The park is relatively undeveloped and contains more than 600 acres of woods, brackish tidal marshes, and rock outcroppings. Selden Neck is one of two bedrock islands found in the entire river.

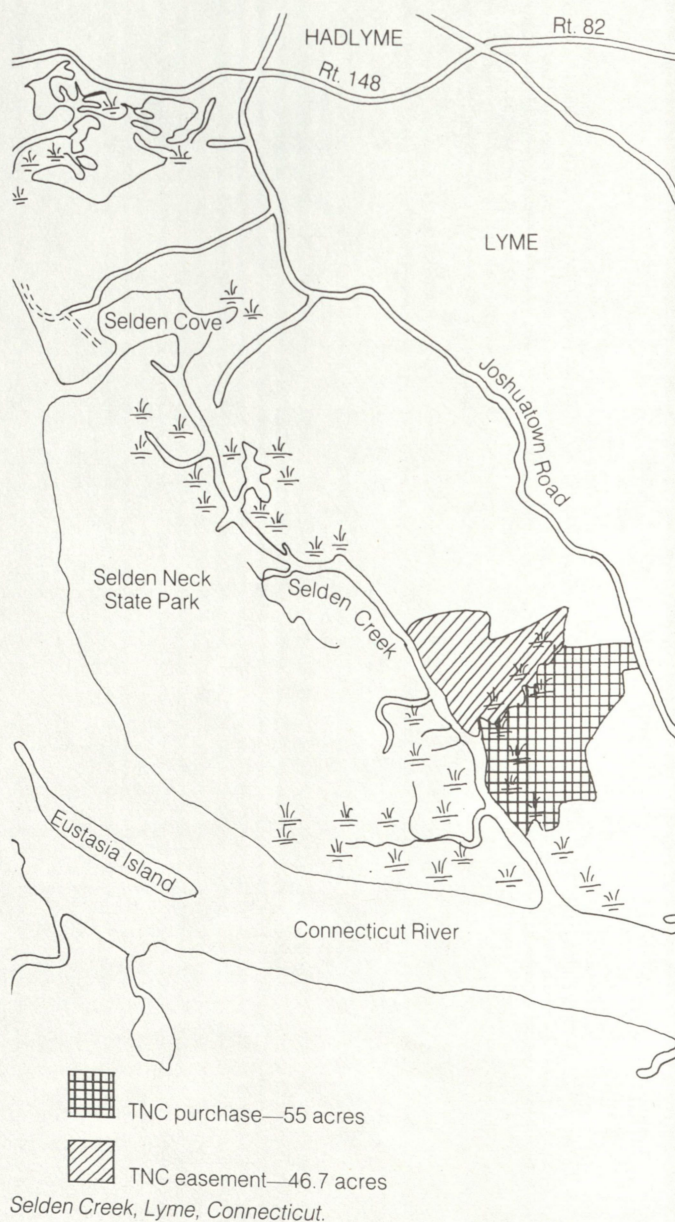
The Selden Creek Preserve contains one of the most undisturbed and biologically significant fresh water tidal marshes in the Connecticut River estuary. These fresh water marshes are a relatively uncommon class of wetland. Their ecological significance is enhanced by the fact that they contain a greater diversity of plant species than salt marshes which increases their attractiveness to wildlife.

These wetlands are habitat for a number of rare plants and animals and provide significant nesting and feeding areas for waterfowl, songbirds, shorebirds, and rails. The

rare plant *Sagittaria montevidensis* ssp. *spongiosa* (long-lobed arrowhead) is found along the shore of the marsh. Further research may reveal other rare species. It is also known that the entire ecosystem of Selden Creek, Selden Neck State Park and the adjoining mainland provides a winter roosting and feeding area for bald eagles. Spectacular vertical cliffs adjoin the wetland providing dramatic vistas along the creek.

Following three months of negotiation with the landowner, the Connecticut Chapter was able to purchase this property with loans from the R.K. Mellon Foundation, Pittsburgh, as part of the National Wetlands Program, and a newly established revolving fund for Conservancy projects on the entire Connecticut River. The revolving fund was recently established with a \$1 million gift by the Sachs Foundation. Former Chapter Executive Director, Evan Griswold, an associate of Strong Realtors in Old Lyme, played a critical role in the successful negotiation of this acquisition.

The Board of Trustees has established a \$500,000





fundraising goal to repay these loans and establish a stewardship fund for the Selden Creek Preserve. The loans must be repaid within the next 12 months. A \$5,000 leadership gift from the Lyme Land Trust was announced by its Chairman, Rufus Barringer. A major fundraising effort to meet the \$500,000 goal is underway.

### Cedar Island Natural Area

Cedar Island, a peninsula lying in Clinton Harbor adjacent to Hammonasset State Park, has been acquired by the Connecticut Chapter for eventual addition to the park as a natural area. The \$800,000 purchase price for the ten-lot five-acre subdivision was below fair-market value. This is the first joint project which the Conservancy has undertaken with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) under provisions of the newly established Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program (reference *From the Land*, Summer, 1986; see also page 6, this issue). Once the Conservancy raises the required matching funds, the preserve will be transferred to DEP.

"It is both exciting and gratifying," said DEP Commissioner Stanley Pac when The Nature Conservancy finalized purchase of the land at Cedar Island, "when the will of the legislature, the timely response of state government and the dedication of an organization such as the Connecticut Nature Conservancy all work together toward an event of such benefit to the citizens of Connecticut."

A beach and low primary dune system are the prominent features of this barrier beach. The dune and sandy beach communities are listed as critical habitat in Dowhan and Craig's 1976 publication, "Rare and Endangered Species of Connecticut and Their Habitats."

Ecologically, this area supports a great diversity of species and several significant habitats. Twenty-six species of birds nest in the Hammonasset Park area, which also provides a critical resting and feeding location for numerous resident and migratory birds. Diamond-backed terrapin, a turtle of brackish waters, also nests on the beach.

The presence of nesting piping plovers, least terns and horned larks are of particular interest to The Nature Conservancy. Ron Rozsa, a biologist with the Connecticut Coastal Area Management Program, observed, "The general inaccessibility of the site makes it an ideal location to manage as a major breeding habitat for plovers and terns."

The preservation of Cedar Island has been a high priority for the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection as well as The Nature Conservancy. Williams Associates, owners of the subdivision, were planning to develop the site for summer homes or as a commercial marina. The Cedar Island subdivision had been approved by Clinton Planning and Zoning in 1983. The sub-

division has been under litigation since that time with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and the Connecticut Fund for the Environment filing as interveners. While the final disposition of the lawsuit remained unclear, it was the general opinion of DEP officials and others that without permanent protection by the Conservancy and DEP, that some degree of development would eventually occur on Cedar Island.

At the request of DEP, the Connecticut Chapter's Executive Director, Les Corey, and TNC Regional Counsel, Phil Tabas, initiated negotiations with Williams Associates in October. An agreement was finally reached for a bargain sale to the Conservancy for \$800,000 (\$80,000 per lot) approximately 60 percent of fair market value for this coastal property. A loan from the Connecticut Chapter's Land Preservation Fund is financing the acquisition. The Board of Trustees have established a \$400,000 fundraising goal for the preservation of Cedar Island.



*Cedar Island, at center in the above photo, was rescued from development when purchased by the Conservancy at substantially below fair-market value for \$800,000 in December 1986 (see article, this page). The Chapter has established a fund-raising goal of \$400,000, which will be matched by the State of Connecticut.*

This amount must be raised over the next 12 months.

Under the terms of the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program the Connecticut DEP will match, dollar-for-dollar, all private or municipal contributions to approved projects. These contributions can be in cash, land or interest in land, provided that the land has conservation value to the state. Once TNC raises the required \$400,000 in matching funds, Cedar Island will be sold to DEP for addition to the Hammonasset State Park Natural Area. TNC has been assured that the property will be permanently managed as a natural area. Under the provisions of this program, DEP is required to invest 20 percent of the market value of the property into a dedicated stewardship account to defer annual maintenance expenses.

The Town of Clinton owns a two-acre tract between Hammonasset State Park and the Williams Associates

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subdivision purchased by The Nature Conservancy. Conservancy representatives have met with Clinton town officials to encourage their participation in the preservation of Cedar Island by contributing their two acres to the park. The TNC preserve and the town parcel would be transferred to the Connecticut DEP as an addition to the 402-acre Hammonasset Natural area, so designated by Governor William O'Neill in 1985.

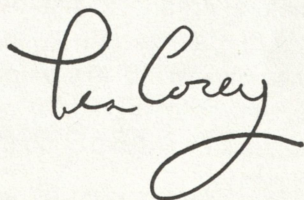
Cooperation by the Town of Clinton is critical to the successful completion of the project. Their parcel links the state park property with Conservancy land and joint participation, by the Town under the terms of the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program, will increase the amount of matching funds available. Town officials have been supportive of the Conservancy's proposal and the Board of Selectman voted at their December meeting to take this proposal before the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Board of Finance, and eventually to town meeting for a public vote.

First Selectwoman, Virginia D. Zawoy, said that she would like to see the area protected. "I would not like to see the island developed intensely," citing the potential for flooding on the island.

\* \* \* \* \*

Taking on two new major projects simultaneously represents a substantial challenge to the Connecticut Chapter. However, it was the consensus of the Board of Trustees and staff that we could not sacrifice either one of these critical areas and we had no alternative but to act promptly and decisively to preserve them. We look forward to working with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, the Connecticut River Gateway Commission, the Town of Clinton, and other conservation organizations and individuals in accomplishing our \$900,000 fundraising goal. The funds must be raised within the next 12 months to meet our loan commitments.

Anyone interested in making a contribution to either the Selden Creek Preserve or the Cedar Island Natural Area should contact Alex Gardner or myself. These are exciting, yet demanding times for natural area preservation in Connecticut and thanks to the progressive generosity of Nature Conservancy members, our Chapter's preservation efforts are increasingly successful. Thank you for your commitment to the protection of Connecticut's wild legacy.



Leslie N. Corey, Jr.  
Executive Director

## FLURRY OF YEAR-END

### HIGBY MT. ADDITION DONATED TO CONSERVANCY

The Nature Conservancy has received a generous gift of 37 acres of land adjacent to its Higby Mountain Preserve, located in the towns of Middlefield and Middletown. This generous gift, from a Meriden resident who prefers to remain anonymous, increases Conservancy protection at Higby Mountain to 159 acres. The gift property includes a spectacular example of a traprock ridge and talus slope.

Higby Mountain is one of the least disturbed of the traprock ridges that are found in central Connecticut. Because they are relatively undeveloped, traprock ridges harbor many plants and animals, some of which are rare to the region.

Those interested in visiting the preserve may wish to consult the book, *Country Walks in Connecticut, A Guide to The Nature Conservancy Preserves*, available from the Chapter office (\$5.95 for members, plus \$1.45 for tax/postage).



Beth Lapin

Through a generous gift of land, 37 acres were added in December to the Conservancy's Higby Mountain Preserve in Middlefield and Middletown. The property includes an outstanding example of a traprock ridge and talus slope, both of which are significant habitat types.

### CHAPTER ACCEPTS REVERTER

Thomas A. Gaines, a former chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), recently purchased 87 acres of woodland in Ashford. He plans to resell the property with a restriction in the deed that there can be no further subdivision of the land. Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust will hold the restriction. In the event that Joshua's Tract ceases to function as a land conservation organization, the restriction would revert to TNC. Mr. Gaines' altruistic actions are an example of yet another way to creatively protect land.



# LAND PROTECTION

## CHAPTER PURCHASES ADDITION TO BEAR HILL WILDLIFE AREA

At the request of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, the Connecticut Chapter has acquired a 40-acre wildlife preserve in the town of Bozrah. The property is primarily upland hardwood forest and adjoins the Bear Hill Wildlife Management Area as well as a sizeable tract of farmland, on which the State recently purchased the development rights.

Les Corey, Executive Director of the Connecticut Chapter, commented, "This parcel represents an important extension to the Bear Hill Wildlife Management Area and we are pleased to provide this important service to the Department of Environmental Protection. The property was on the open market and DEP was unable to secure final authorization to close on the project this year. We were able to move swiftly and prevent the possible loss of this habitat to development."

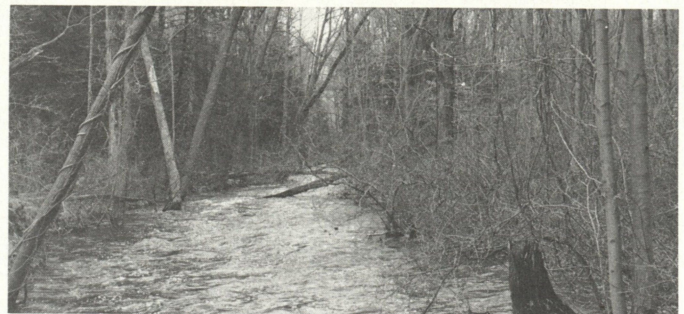
The Chapter paid \$100,000 for the tract under a bargain sale arrangement with owner Alice O. Goodrich. A short-term loan from the Conservancy's Land Preservation Fund will be repaid with interest when the property is re-sold to the State later this year.

## LAND GIFT AND EASEMENT ADD PROTECTION TO WEIR PRESERVE

The Chapter is pleased to accept a significant addition to the Weir Preserve in Wilton. The addition includes 5.6 acres which were given outright to the Conservancy and an additional 12.9 acres which will be protected by a conservation easement. The gift increases protection at the Weir Preserve to 110.5 acres. The property includes wooded upland, a pond, a brook, and a sizable wooded swamp. The gift was donated by Geoffrey and Elizabeth Baker. Mr. Baker is a past chairman of the Connecticut Chapter and a long standing member of the Weir Preserve Committee.

## THREE GIFTS OF LAND RECEIVED DECEMBER 31

Three properties were donated to the Conservancy on the last day of 1986, collectively adding 17 acres to existing Conservancy preserves. Drs. Earl and Margaret Mummert gave 12 acres for Pike-Marshall Preserve, Miss Adelaide Emory gave four acres for Benton Hill Fen, and Mr. and Mrs. Booth Hemingway gave one acre in Stamford as further protection for the Mianus River. The Conservancy is extremely grateful to all of these donors. Publication deadlines regrettably prevent fuller description at this time, but we will be reporting more about these properties in our next issue.



*Two additions to the Byram River Preserve in Greenwich, Connecticut, increase protection here to 139 acres.*

## RECENT GIFTS OF LAND EXPAND BYRAM RIVER PRESERVE

The Chapter has received two important gifts of property along the Byram River in Greenwich. Mrs. James P. Warburg has given the Conservancy 4.3 wooded acres which includes frontage on both sides of the river. The tract is contiguous to land previously donated by James and Joan Warburg which is now part of the Byram River Preserve.

A second parcel along the Byram River was donated by Linda Portanova. This 2.6-acre parcel contains large hemlocks and about 465 feet of river frontage. Its southern boundary is contiguous with Nature Conservancy property.

With these two additions, the Byram River Preserve now totals 139.6 acres. Protected land now runs for more than two miles along both sides of the river, with land in Nature Conservancy, Greenwich Land Trust and Greenwich Audubon Society ownership.

## BURNHAM BROOK ADDITION COMPLETED

On November 26, 1986, the closing on the Spitzschuh property in East Haddam took place. The 75-acre addition to the Burnham Brook Preserve was purchased by the Conservancy for \$150,000. Fundraising was coordinated by Richard Goodwin.

Commented Les Corey, Executive Director of the Connecticut Chapter, "Thanks to the leadership and generosity of Richard and Esther Goodwin, Burnham Brook is rapidly becoming one of the Chapter's most substantial preserves dedicated to scientific research. We are forever indebted to their vision and commitment to the Conservancy's goals."

This ecologically sensitive parcel provides further protection to the Burnham Brook watershed bringing the total number of acres in the Burnham Brook Preserve to nearly 500. This preserve is of special interest to field researchers and, as such, visits are by permission only. Those wishing to obtain permission should contact The Nature Conservancy's Connecticut office at 344-0716.

The Trustees thank Mr. and Mrs. John Spitzschuh for selling to the Conservancy.



## RECREATION AND NATURAL HERITAGE TRUST PROGRAM UPDATE

Last June the Connecticut General Assembly took a significant first step toward establishing an aggressive state open space land acquisition program. The Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program, Public Act 86-406, authorizes \$2 million in bonding for acquiring additions to existing state conservation lands and other properties containing important natural features.

Through an innovative public/private partnership provision, \$1 million of the fund must be matched on a one-to-one basis by contributions of cash and/or land by private organizations, land trusts or conservation commissions.

As can be expected with any new program some questions have been raised about its workability. A brief look at the activities of the two committees set up to help implement the law will provide some answers.

The Open Space Task Force (OSTF) is preparing recommendations for adequate and permanent funding to meet Connecticut's open space land acquisition needs. The Advisory Board is working with Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Pac to identify and resolve any problems in administering this pilot project.

The need is to balance Connecticut's rapid rate of development with careful acquisition of land for recreation and natural habitat protection. Cut-backs of over 80 percent in the federal Land and Water Conservation grants have left Connecticut with an allocation of only \$548,441 in fiscal year 1986-87, and the possibility of nothing next year.

Connecticut's goal, according to DEP Commissioner Pac, is to protect 300,000 acres or ten percent of the state's land area. In 1986, state open space lands totaled only 206,000 acres or 6.6 percent of the state. To meet the goal of protecting an additional 100,000 acres by the year 2000, it will be necessary to protect 7,692 acres per year. If this land could be acquired at an average cost of \$3,250 per acre, annual funding of \$25 million for 13 years would be needed.

The Open Space Task Force is considering a recommendation to the Governor and the 1987 General Assembly for an annual expenditure of \$25 million for land acquisition to meet this goal. The Nature Conservancy endorses this recommendation. We believe it is a realistic proposal firmly rooted in historic perspectives and fully compatible with recent state land acquisition costs.

The Conservancy believes the most appropriate and effective funding source is a percentage of the state real estate conveyance tax, or a combination of substantial bonding with the debt service being repaid from a percentage of the real estate conveyance tax.

How is administration of the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program working and what is the Advisory Board doing to address problems that arise? Although off to a slow start on December 2 because of delays in

appointing its members, the Advisory Board has reviewed, with Commissioner Pac, DEP's application and land acquisition process and is formulating recommendations for a February report to the General Assembly.

Significantly, a major purchase of shoreline property has already been negotiated under the public/private partnership provisions of PA86-406, and is nearing completion of the DEP review process (see article on Cedar Island, page 3).

Issues being discussed by the Board include: (1) the adequacy of funding for the DEP Natural Diversity Data Base to meet the additional reviews of proposed acquisitions, (2) the adequacy of existing criteria to enable purchase of water utility lands that are offered for sale and that would enhance state recreational opportunities or protect significant natural areas, and (3) the workability of the existing 50:50 public/private match ratio.

As funding increases the Conservancy feels it will be important to replace the current 50:50 match with an 80:20 ratio. The 80:20 ratio was specified in the original drafts of the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program but was amended by the Senate without consultation with the non-profit conservation organizations willing to work in partnership with the state.

The resulting \$1 million match required by non-profit organizations is a real challenge that we believe can be met this year. However, on a continuing or expanding basis the dollar-for-dollar match would preclude the participation of most privately supported non-profits' ability to respond to additional land acquisitions.

Municipal land acquisition programs for conservation and recreation have also been crippled by the federal grant cut-backs. Many towns are exploring alternative funding sources. The Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program can help protect those lands that are of common interest to the state and town. But an additional source of revenue is needed to meet local priorities.

The Conservancy has proposed to the OSTF that state matching grants be made available to municipalities for open space acquisition. These would be used to meet local open space priorities including aquifer protection and purchase of water utility lands when they are offered for sale.

Is a \$25 million per year program for state land acquisition and grants to municipalities too ambitious an undertaking for Connecticut? We don't think so. Maryland has been spending \$24 million annually for state acquisition of 6,000 acres per year and municipal acquisition of 1,400 acres per year. In this time of prosperity—state budget surplus and development boom—Connecticut would be wise to follow Maryland's example by investing in her open spaces future. By doing so we would be, to use Maryland's words, "Protecting a Natural Resource Legacy and Providing for Many of Life's Best Days".



## FRANK BOREN NAMED NEW CONSERVANCY PRESIDENT

After a successful seven-year presidency, William D. Blair, Jr. has stepped down from that post this January. Assuming the top position in the Conservancy is Frank Boren.

Recently appointed the Conservancy's Western Regional Director, Boren has been a member of the Southern California and California Chapters since 1969, and was Chapter chairman in 1973, 1974, and 1983. He was a member of the national Board of Governors from 1974 until 1983, serving as its chairman from 1979 to 1981. He played an important role in acquiring the 55,000-acre Santa Cruz Island preserve. Boren has received the Gulf Oil Conservation Award (now the Chevron Award), an Oak Leaf Award, and a California Achievement Award from the California Chapter. A native of Southern California, Frank received his undergraduate and law degrees at Stanford University. He served three years in the Air Force before becoming a real estate attorney with a prestigious Los Angeles law firm.

Said G. Jon Roush, Chairman of the Board of Governors of Boren, "He really believes in the organization—that and his leadership skills, fund-raising experience, and basic good business sense will be excellent for the Conservancy. He's a problem solver, a very decisive manager, and he has a tremendous amount of chapter experience. He will be an outstanding leader." Connecticut joins in welcoming Frank to his new position.



## FOURTH ANNUAL CONVOCATION DRAWS CAPACITY CROWD

The Connecticut Land Trust Convocation held Saturday, November 1, 1986, at the Yale Law School in New Haven was a resounding success. A capacity crowd of 165 listened enthusiastically to well informed speakers. Forty-six Connecticut land trusts were represented by 97 people. Fifty-seven other registrants included representatives from the New Marlborough Land Trust, Inc., in Southfield, Mass., the Pascommuck Conservation Trust, Inc., in Easthampton, Mass., the Cranston Land Conservation Trust in Cranston, R.I., the Audubon Society of R.I., various Connecticut town conservation commissions, inland wetland commissions, a few town planners and other town officials, the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority, a few Yale students and other assorted individuals interested in land protection.

According to the 93 questionnaires returned, the panel

on Land Trust Legal Issues and Implications of the 1986 Tax Reform was the most informative session. Creative Land Development and Land Management ran a close second. One participant commented, "I found this a very dynamic and committed group with many good ideas . . ."

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PRESERVE WORK PARTIES

**Sunday, March 29:** To help protect the nesting terns and plovers, this year The Nature Conservancy is planning to erect a seasonal fence around a section of Griswold Point. To do this, we need the assistance of a number of volunteers to dig posts in the sand, string fence, and secure it. Will you join us? We will meet at 10:00 a.m., rain or shine, to begin erecting the fence. If you are interested in helping, please drop a card by March 6 to: Griswold Point Work Party, The Nature Conservancy, 55 High Street, Middletown, CT 06457. We will send you details and a map in mid-March.

**Saturday, April 25:** Volunteers are needed for a work party at the Burnham Brook Preserve in East Haddam. An old household dump needs to be removed and several cisterns filled in. The party will be rescheduled in case of inclement weather. Bring a picnic lunch; beverages will be provided. For directions and further information, call Dick Goodwin at 873-8514.

## CORPORATIONS SUPPORT CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

We would like to thank the businesses that annually are helping make possible the continued success of The Nature Conservancy in Connecticut by supporting Chapter operations.

### CORPORATE ASSOCIATES (\$1,000 or more annually)

Aetna Life and Casualty Company  
AMAX Foundation, Inc.  
American Maize-Products Company  
Barnes Group Foundation, Inc.  
Champion International  
CIGNA Corporation  
Dexter Corporation  
General Electric Company  
General Telephone and Electronics Corporation  
Northeast Utilities  
Olin Corporation Charitable Trust  
Remington Arms, Inc.  
Scovill Foundation, Inc.  
The Stanley Works  
Union Carbide  
The York Hill Trap Rock Quarry Company, Inc.  
Garden Homes Management Corporation  
Emhart Corporation  
Moore McCormack Resources  
Connecticut National Bank

### CORPORATE SPONSORS (\$500 or more annually)

Middlesex Mutual Assurance Company



## STEWARDSHIP WORKSHOP PLANNED

Most of our 70 Connecticut preserves are managed by a group of dedicated volunteers, many of whom are neighbors of the area. These volunteer preserve committees are responsible for posting Conservancy land, marking trails, cleaning litter, and monitoring the use of the preserve.

In early April, the Connecticut office will host a stewardship workshop to update these volunteers on progress of the Chapter and discuss stewardship issues. Some of the topics to be discussed are management policies, posting laws, and dealing with increased use of areas. All members of the volunteer preserve committees will receive detailed agendas for this meeting. Any Conservancy member who would like to learn more about preserve stewardship or is interested in joining a volunteer preserve committee is welcome to attend the workshop. To receive a copy of the agenda and other details, send your name and address by March 6 to: Stewardship Workshop, The Nature Conservancy, 55 High Street, Middletown, CT 06457.

## CONSERVANCY CO-PRESENTING PBS SERIES, *NATURE*

Since December 28, 1986, The Nature Conservancy has been participating in the presentation of *Nature*, a natural history series on public television.

A national presentation of WNET-New York in association with The Nature Conservancy, *Nature* is made possible by grants from public TV stations and the American Gas Association. The series is seen weekly on most Public Broadcasting Service stations. Robert E. Jenkins, the Conservancy's Vice President for Science Programs, is the principal science advisor to the series.

The following is the schedule of upcoming programs:

Feb. 8	ICHKEUL: Between the Desert and the Deep Blue Sea
Feb. 15	And Then the Rains Came
Feb. 22	Fujisan 1—See No Evil
March 1	Fujisan 2—Bird of Happiness
March 8	Fujisan 3—Long Live the Turtle
March 15	Wild Horses
March 22	Soft Feed: The Plant Hunters
March 29	Kalahari: Wilderness Without Water
April 5	One Man's Island
April 12	Holy Land 1: A Wilderness Like Eden
April 19	Holy Land 2: Sweet Water, Bitter Sea
April 26	Garden Life
May 3	Selva Verde
May 10	Lords of Hokkaido
May 17	Animal Builders
May 24	Masked Monkeys

May 31	The Feathered Swarm
June 7	Battle of the Leaves
June 14	The Gooneys of Midway
June 21	Emas: High Plains of Brazil
June 28	The Skyhunters
July 5	Aspen—Dancer on the Wind
July 12	Where Eagles Fly

The Nature Conservancy is proud to be associated with this highly acclaimed natural history series. We hope you'll be watching.



## CONSERVANCY LICENSE PLATE

A high quality, aluminum license plate is available for \$6.00 (postage included) from the Glastonbury Sub-Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, % Mr. Joseph Standard, 48 Ripley Road, Glastonbury, CT 06033. The sturdy 6" x 12" plate has standard mounting holes and is weather-proof. The Nature Conservancy logo is rendered in green and white. Proceeds go to the Glastonbury Sub-Chapter, sponsor of the project.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 19:** The Connecticut Forest and Park Association will be presenting a lecture and slide program by Cara Lee, author of *West Rock to the Barndoor Hills: The Traprock Ridges of Connecticut*. The geology, ecology, and human history of the traprock ridges will be discussed. The book is the result of research which was supported by the Chapter. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. and will be held at the James L. Goodwin Forest and Park Center on Route 66 in Middletown.

**May 3:** Michael Bell, author of *The Face of Connecticut: People, Geology, and the Land*, will lead a geology field trip to several sites in the Middletown area. The trip will include a visit to Higby Mountain, a popular Conservancy preserve. The trip is sponsored by the Connecticut Forest and Park Association and will meet at their James L. Goodwin Center on Route 66 in Middletown at 2:00 p.m., rain or shine.

For more information on the events listed above, call Linda Rapp of the Connecticut Forest and Park Association at 346-2372.





Beth Lapin

Andy Zepp, new Chapter stewardship assistant (see article above).

## ANDY ZEPP NAMED NEW STEWARDSHIP ASSISTANT

The Connecticut Chapter staff was recently augmented by the addition of Andy Zepp as stewardship assistant. Andy, a graduate of Cornell University, began his Conservancy career as an botanical survey intern for the New York Field Office in May 1986. An avid outdoorsman, Andy is active in photography, hiking, and backpacking in his spare time.

Andy's work includes managing the annual monitoring of Conservancy lands, organizing volunteers for the bald eagle and tern/plover areas, evaluating additions to preserves and a number of other stewardship responsibilities. Please join us in welcoming Andy to Connecticut.

## CANOE NEEDED

The Chapter needs an aluminum or fiberglass canoe to be used in preserve management and scientific research. If you have a canoe you would consider donating, please call 344-0716 (Beth Lapin, Director of Science and Stewardship) or drop us a line. Thank you.

## "THANK YOU" TO EAGLE VOLUNTEERS

The Chapter is once again pleased to participate in the Bald Eagle Observation Area at the Shepaug Dam in Southbury. The observation area is a cooperative effort of Northeast Utilities, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, and The Nature Conservancy. Volunteers, recruited by the Conservancy, serve a vital role in educating the public and assisting in the operation of the observation site. It is to these volunteers that we wish to express our gratitude. Without them, operation of the site would be much more difficult. For those who are interested in visiting the site, it is open Friday through Monday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Call or write the Connecticut Chapter office for directions.

## SUMMER POSITIONS AVAILABLE

The Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, the Connecticut Audubon Society, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the non-game unit of the Department of Environmental Protection are co-sponsoring several joint research and management projects this summer. These field positions are located at several critical coastal locations including Milford Point, Falkner Island, and Griswold Point.

A number of openings exist to staff these projects and each position has one or more sponsors:

Position(s)	Location
2 research assistants	Falkner Island
2 wardens	Griswold Point and Pattagansett Marshes
1 warden	Milford Point
2 statewide tern/ plover monitors	various locations

For details, send your name, address, and choice of position as soon as possible to: Summer Positions, The Nature Conservancy, 55 High Street, Middletown, CT 06457. We will send you additional information. The Conservancy is delighted to continue to be involved in these cooperative ventures with CAS, DEP, and the USFWS. Our mutual benefit and achievements through these efforts are greatly appreciated.

## UTILITY OF DIVERSITY

Nature may provide us with some of the best sugar substitutes yet. *International Wildlife* magazine reports that the leaves and flowers of *Lippus dulcis* are 1,000 times sweeter than sucrose.

According to early tests, the tropical American plant—once used by the Aztecs—is non-toxic, has no adverse effects, and has few calories. Two companies have begun investigating its possible use in toothpaste and mouthwash.



Beth Lapin

A special thanks to Nancy Tier, who donated her time and the use of her plane to fly Beth Lapin, TNC Stewardship Director, and Les Mehrhoff, DEP botanist, in their search for purple loosestrife invasion. Nancy, the President of the International Women's Air and Space Museum in Ohio, lives in Lakeville and has been flying 60 years.



## CHAPTER'S NEW ACORNS – 1986

A member becomes an Acorn by donating \$100 or more annually to Chapter operations. This level of support is vital to sustaining the growing land preservation challenges facing the Connecticut Chapter. Our thanks go to the following who joined as Acorns in 1986 and to those generous Acorns who renewed or upgraded their support in 1986. The number of Connecticut Acorns increased by 20 percent this past year to 602.

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We have made every effort to make the above list of new Acorns accurate, but if there are errors or omissions, we would welcome hearing from you. We are sorry that space does not allow us to list every Connecticut Acorn.

**A warm and heartfelt *thank you* to every member of THE NATURE CONSERVANCY IN CONNECTICUT for your generosity and support of our land preservation efforts in 1986.**

## TERN/PLOVER VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Anyone interested in volunteering time to help monitor least terns and piping plovers in West Hartford and Stratford should send his/her name and address by April 8 to: Tern/Plover Volunteer Coordinator, The Nature Conservancy, 55 High Street, Middletown, CT 06457. Information on this project will be mailed in late April.

The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to find, acquire, and manage lands that support outstanding examples of the species and ecosystems that make up our natural world.

### From the Land



Winter/1987

Published for the members of  
the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy

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